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LETTER DATED 16 MARCH 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that, according to information published by the Press Service of the President of the Azerbaijani Republic and the newspapers Bakinsky Rabochy and Vyshka and to Azerbaijani television and radio reports, an Armenian expeditionary force operating in the territory of Azerbaijan is preparing to expand its military operations.

In May 1992, Armenian military formations, violating the State frontier of the Azerbaijani Republic, occupied the towns of Lachin and Shusha. Through this territory, annexed from Azerbaijan and referred to as the "Lachin corridor", military equipment and supplies and military formations that have completed their training in Armenia and in foreign bases are being channelled systematically to Upper Karabakh.

Lately, particularly at a time when CSCE is putting its peace policy into practice and when the convening of the Minsk Conference is becoming a reality, Armenia's ruling circles have been attempting to expand their aggression. The secret arrival of the Armenian Minister of Defence in the Agder district of Azerbaijan on 10 March and his action in checking that the Armenian military formations there are ready for battle are events unprecedented in the history of contemporary inter-State relations and once again confirm that the Armenian leadership is disregarding international legal norms and does not want to reckon with the international organizations that safeguard those norms. The visit by the Armenian Minister of Defence completely exposes the false assertions by the Armenian leadership that there is not one Armenian soldier in the territory of Azerbaijan.

The visit by the Armenian Minister of Defence to the Agder district of the Azerbaijani Republic bears witness to the new military operations being prepared by formations of the occupying army. This situation is also confirmed by reports in the mass media.

Armenia's conduct of extensive military operations each time important talks are about to take place, the intention being to cause a breakdown in those talks, has become systematic. The Azerbaijani Republic draws the actions

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of the leadership of the Republic of Armenia to the attention of States and international organizations that are making efforts to establish peace in the region, once again affirms its readiness to continue the talks in accordance with the decisions of the Rome meeting, and calls on the international community to take all possible measures so that Armenia's actions do not cause a breakdown in the negotiating process.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
